

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A toy vehicle comprising:

a chassis;

5 an electric power supply supported by the chassis;
at least a first drive motor also supported by the chassis and receiving power from the electric power supply;

at least a first drive wheel mounted to the chassis to rotate about a wheel axis, the first drive wheel being operably coupled with at least the first drive motor;

10 at least a first link having a first end pivotally coupled with the chassis, and a second opposing end, the first link having two operative positions: a first, fully-retracted operating configuration wherein the first link is positioned against the chassis, at least transversely spanning the wheel axis; and a second, extended operating configuration wherein the first link is pivoted away and extended from the chassis and the wheel axis; and

15 at least a first non-powered wheel rotatably attached to the second opposing end of the first link, the toy vehicle being supported on the at least one driven wheel and the at least one non-driven wheel in both the first and second operating configurations of the at least first link.

2. The toy vehicle of claim 1, further comprising a wireless control receiver supported by the chassis and configured to receive wireless control signals to selectively control the at least first drive motor.

3. The toy vehicle of claim 1 wherein the at least first link wraps at least partially around the chassis in the first operating configuration.

4. The toy vehicle of claim 3 wherein the first link wraps about half way around the chassis in the first operating configuration.

5. The toy vehicle of claim 1 wherein the at least first link wraps around the wheel axis about 180 degrees in the first operating configuration.

6. The toy vehicle of claim 1 wherein the chassis has a generally rectangular lateral profile in a plane perpendicular to the wheel axis and the at least first link extends around at least two sides of the chassis rectangular profile.

7. The toy vehicle of claim 1 wherein the at least first drive wheel is higher in side elevation than is the chassis.

8. The toy vehicle of claim 1 wherein torque acting on the chassis resulting from driving the first drive wheel can cause the first link to pivot with respect to the chassis.

9. The toy vehicle of claim 1 wherein the first drive wheel includes a hollow, air-filled tire.

10. The toy vehicle of claim 1, wherein the first non-driven wheel includes a tire having a 5 higher durometer than a durometer of a tire forming a part of the drive wheel.

11. The toy vehicle of claim 1 wherein the first non-driven wheel has a coefficient of friction less than a coefficient of friction of the first driven wheel.

12. The toy vehicle of claim 1 wherein the first drive wheel has a diameter larger than a diameter of the first non-driven wheel.

10 13. The toy vehicle of claim 1 wherein the first link is pivotally attached directly to the chassis.

14. The toy vehicle of claim 1 further comprising:

a second link having a first end and a second opposing end, the first end being pivotally coupled with the chassis, the second opposing end being pivotally attached directly to 15 the first end of the first link;

wherein in both the first and the second operating configurations, the second link is at least partially wrapped around the chassis; and

the toy vehicle having a third operating configuration wherein both the first link and the second link are pivoted away and extended from the chassis.

20 15. The toy vehicle of claim 14 wherein the first and second links wrap essentially fully around the chassis in the first operating configuration.

16. The toy vehicle of claim 14 wherein the second end of the first link at least partially overlaps first end of the second link in the first operating configuration.

17. The toy vehicle of claim 14 wherein the second link wraps about half way or more 25 around the chassis in the first and second operating configurations.

18. The toy vehicle of claim 14 wherein forces acting on the toy vehicle resulting from driving the first drive wheel can cause the first link and the second link to pivot with respect to the chassis.

19. The toy vehicle of claim 14 further comprising a locking element configured to lock the 30 first link into position relative to the second link.

20. A toy vehicle comprising:

a chassis;

- an electric power supply supported by the chassis;
- at least a first drive motor also supported by the chassis and receiving power from the electric power supply;
- at least a first drive wheel rotatably mounted to the chassis, the first drive wheel being operably coupled with at least the first drive motor;
- a plurality of pivotally connected links forming a link chain having a first-end pivotally connected to the chassis and having at least one non-powered wheel at a second end most distal from the chassis, the link chain having a first operating position wrapped at least substantially around the chassis and a second operating position unwrapped and extended away from the chassis;

wherein the toy vehicle is supported on the at least one driven wheel and the at least one non-driven wheel in both the first and second operating positions.